THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The adjudication proceedings for payment of compensation to the victims have commenced.

(b) to (f): The Government of Madhya Pradesh is implementing an Action Plan of Rs. 163.10 crores approved by the Central Government for relief and rehabilitation of the Bhopal Gas Victims. The expenditure on this action plan is being shared by the Central Government with the Government of Madhya Pradesh in the ratio of 75:25. The plan includes economic, social environmental and medical rehabilitation programmes. A sum of Rs. 36.67 crores has been released as the share of the Central Government so far. As regards the rehabilitation of the erstwhile workers of the Union Carbde Corporation, the Government of Madhya Pradesh have informed that 632 workers out of 634 were provided alternative employment. One employee was provided loan under self-employment scheme.

Essential Drugs

412 SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to reduce the number of essential drugs under the drug control policy ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) The drug policy is still under review and as such, it would be premature to disclose the details at this stage.

Liability of M/S Hoechst

413. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA :

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be leased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3047 given in the Rajya Sabha on 19th December, 1991 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that by June, 1991 Government were required to determine the liability of M/s. Hoechst and communicate the same in terms of the Bombay High Court judgement ;

(b) whether it is a fact that liability has not been determined so far ;

(c) what steps have been taken to investigate the reasons for delay; and

(d) what is the tentative amount that has been worked out against the company so far, drug-wise, upto that period and why the balance amount has not been worked out so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) to (d). M/s Hoechst has no yet made available the entire data, in particular for the period 25.8.1987 in a number of cases. In the event of the We complete data not becoming available from the company, the Government will have no alternate but to make use of whatever data becomes available from other sources, to enable determination of the tentative liability of the company. The hearing envisaged in para No. 5 of the order dated 8.3.1991 of the Bombay High Court is proposed to be given to the company in the last week of March, 1992 whereafter final decision on the total liability under the DPEA would be taken and the speaking order will be passed. The total tentative liability of M/s Hoechst had been worked out as Rs. 77.81 crores against which the company had filed writ Petition in the Bombay High Court. The drugwise details are given in the attached statement. (*See below*).